

Songkhla

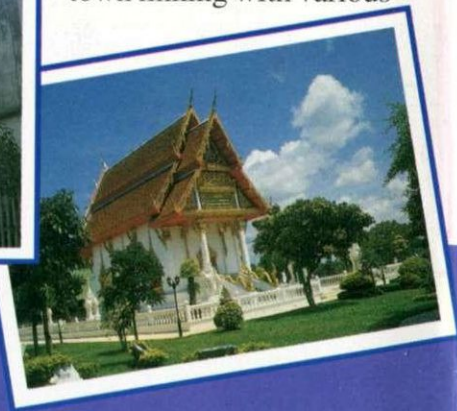
Complimentary

SONGKHLA

Songkhla is a border province in Southern Thailand, adjoining the state of Kedah in Malaysia. It has been known as a principal sea port and coastal trading post from time immemorial. As a historic town, Songkhla has inherited ancient ruins, arts, and places of cultural importance in addition to its unique tradition, dialect, and

folk entertainment, a reflection of its rich cultural heritage for later generations to appreciate.

Songkhla has fine beaches, enchanting waterfalls, and a tranquil lake - a manifestation of its abundant natural resources. While Songkhla is noted for its fishery industry, Hat Yai serves as a transportation and communications hub of the South, with this bustling town linking with various



Means of Transport

BY BUS

A 950 kilometer road journey from Bangkok on Highway No. 4 takes you past Prachuab Khirikhan, Chumphon, Surat Thani, and Nakhon Si Thammarat to Songkhla. Several daily air-conditioned coaches and non-air-conditioned buses leave Bangkok for Hat Yai and vice versa. For further infor-

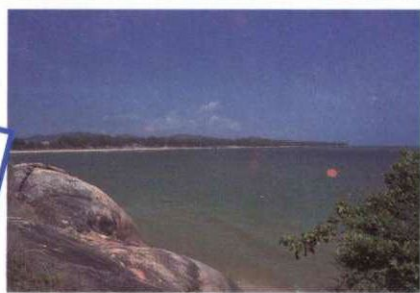
mation, please call Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal : (02) 4351199, 4347192, 4345557-8 or Hat Yai Bus Terminal: (074) 232404, 232789.

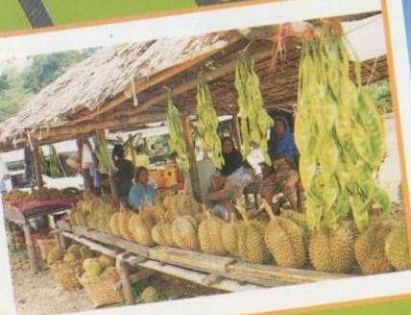
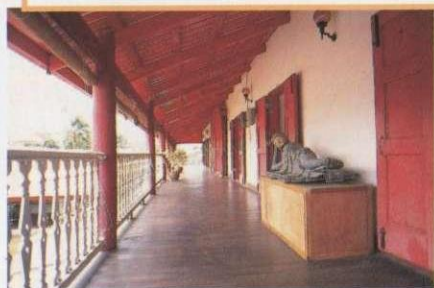
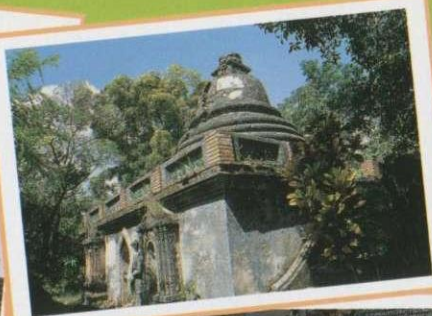
destinations in the neighboring provinces and in Malaysia. Only 30 kilometers apart and with contrastive characteristics, Hat Yai and Songkhla can be ideal places for the tourist to visit: Hat Yai, a fast booming city in trade and business, while Songkhla remains a sleepy town still able to maintain its unique identity of ancient and historical flavors.

Songkhla covers an area of 7,393 square kilometers . It is divided into 16 administrative Amphoe (districts), i.e. Amphoe Muang, Amphoe Hat Yai, Amphoe Chana, Amphoe Ranode, Amphoe Bangklam, Amphoe Namom, Amphoe Khlong Hoykhong, Amphoe Thepa, Amphoe Sabayoi, Amphoe Sadao, Amphoe Rattaphum, Amphoe Singha Nakhorn, Amphoe Khuanniang, and Amphoe Krasaesin. The population of the province is 1,223, 833 (1999).

By Train: Train services linking Bangkok and Hat Yai include both rapid and express trains. For further details, contact Hat Yai Railway Station: (074)243705, 246267-8, 243978.

By Air: Thai Airways International offers many flights daily between Bangkok and Hat Yai. For information, please contact its office in Hatyai at Tel:(074) 245851, 233433, 244282, 243711.





My lovely home town in an afternoon of August (2000). From Tang Kuan Mountain.

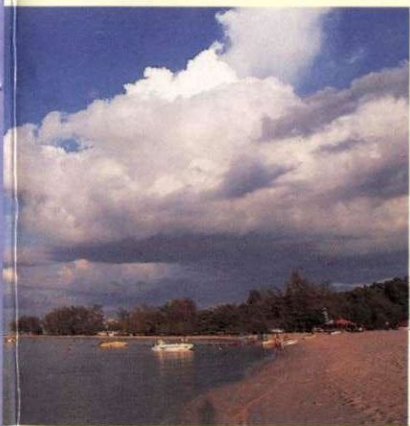
SONGKHLA







samila beach



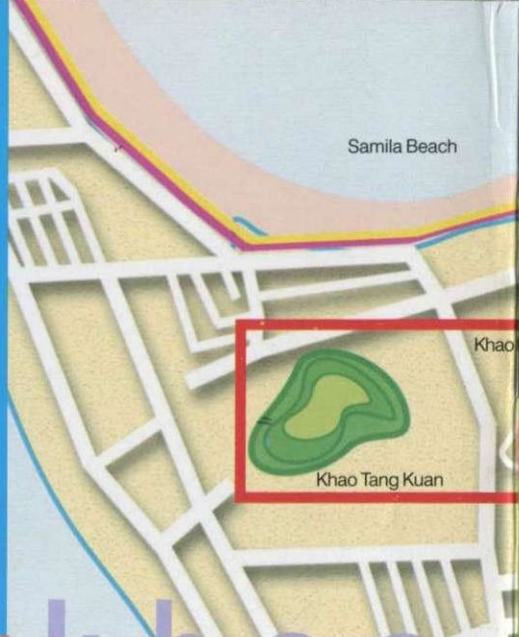
Lying approximately 2.5 kilometers from the municipal market, the beach is characterized by fine white sand and lined with shady pine trees. From Samila Beach one can see Laem Son Onn to the northeast and Chalathas

Beach to the south. On a clear day, Kao Seng Hill can be seen further to the south. The major landmark of the beach is the Golden Mermaid Statue, a prominent symbol of Songkhla. Along the beach, sport and recreation activities are available.

noi

KHAO NOI

khao



khao

Khao Noi

Lying some 150 meters behind the Samila Beach, this hillock is accessed by winding paved roads. At the foot of the hillock on the eastern side is a mini-park where food is sold to park goers and where tennis courts are available for the athletic-minded. On the northeastern side, there is a small topiary garden. The hilltop also provides a fitness park and the statue of Kromluang Lopburi Ramase.

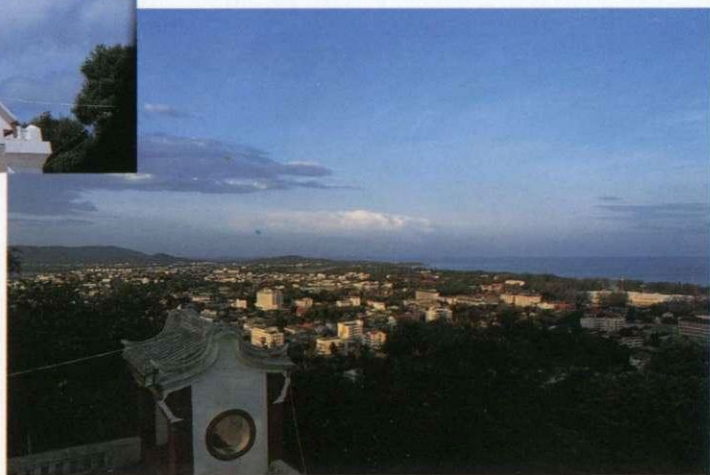


Khao Tang Kuan

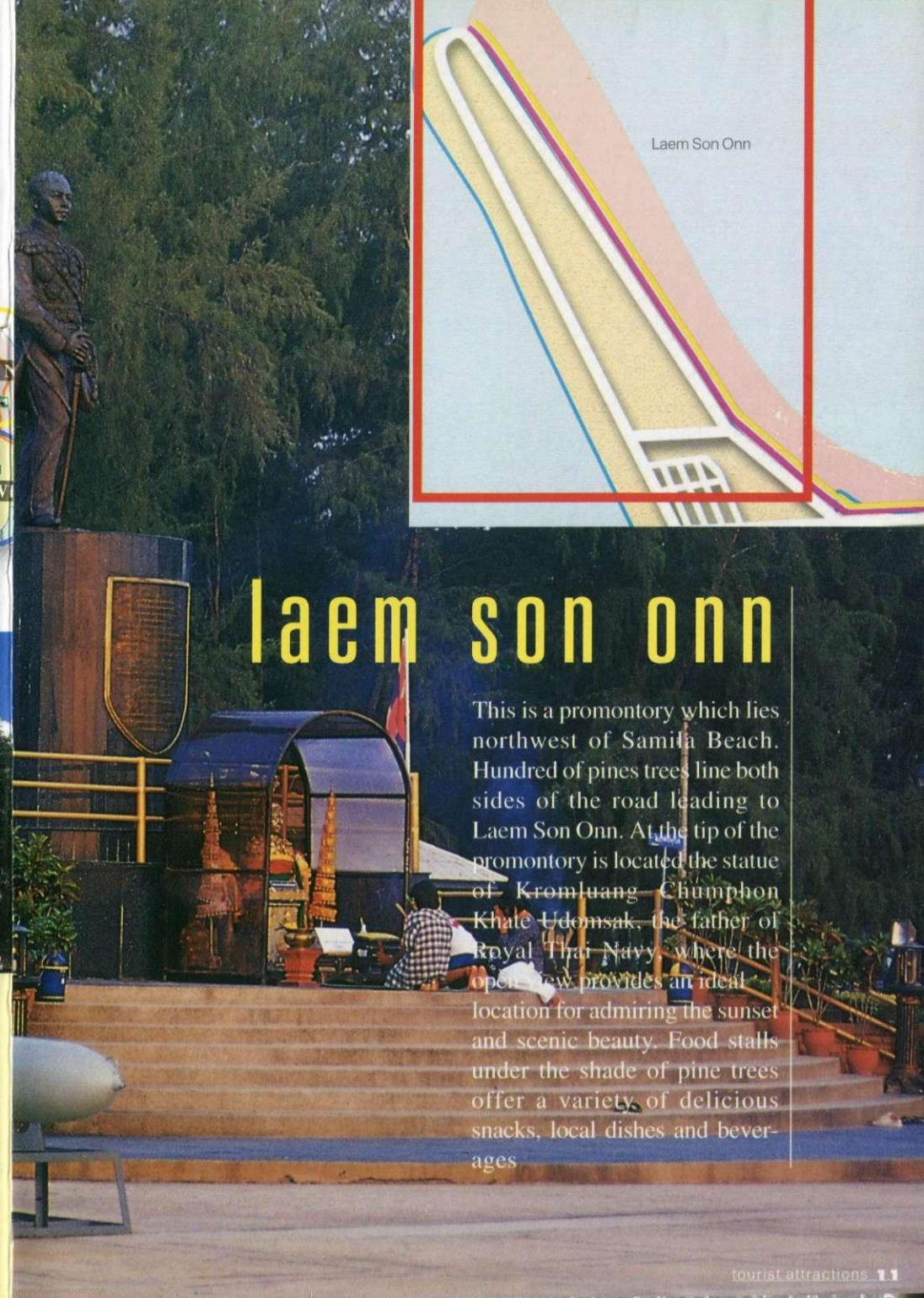
This hill lies next to Khao Noi and on its top (2,000 feet above the sea level) is located the important temple of Songkhla, built during the Nakhon Si Thammarat era using the Thavaravadee art style. The hilltop commands a panoramic view of Songkhla and is reached by climbing the stairway on Rachadamnern Road.

The temple performs an annual ceremony of placing a robe around the pagoda, Tak Bart Devo (offering food for hungry souls) and a Buddha statue procession in October. Next to the temple is a red pavilion built in 1888 by the then ruler of Songkhla, Phraya Wichien Khiri (Chom), under the command of King Rama V.

t a n g k u a n



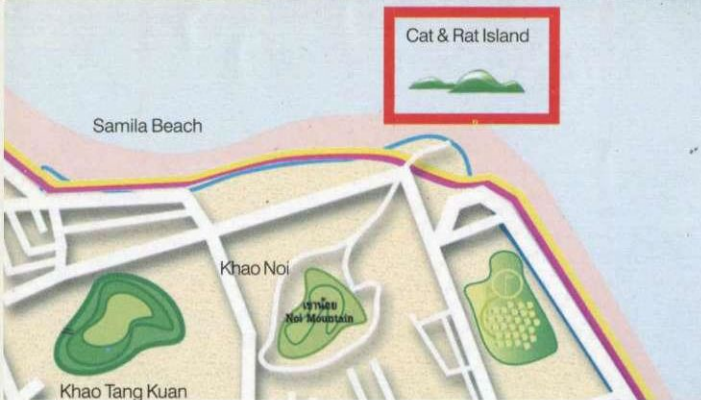




Laem Son Onn

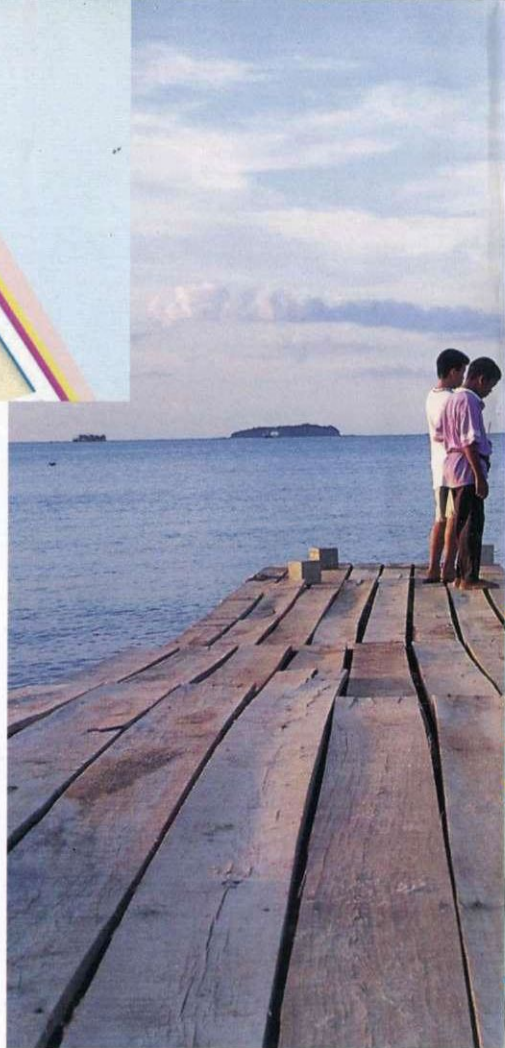
laem son onn

This is a promontory which lies northwest of Samila Beach. Hundred of pines trees line both sides of the road leading to Laem Son Onn. At the tip of the promontory is located the statue of Kromluang Chumphon Khate Udomsak, the father of Royal Thai Navy, where the open view provides an ideal location for admiring the sunset and scenic beauty. Food stalls under the shade of pine trees offer a variety of delicious snacks, local dishes and beverages.

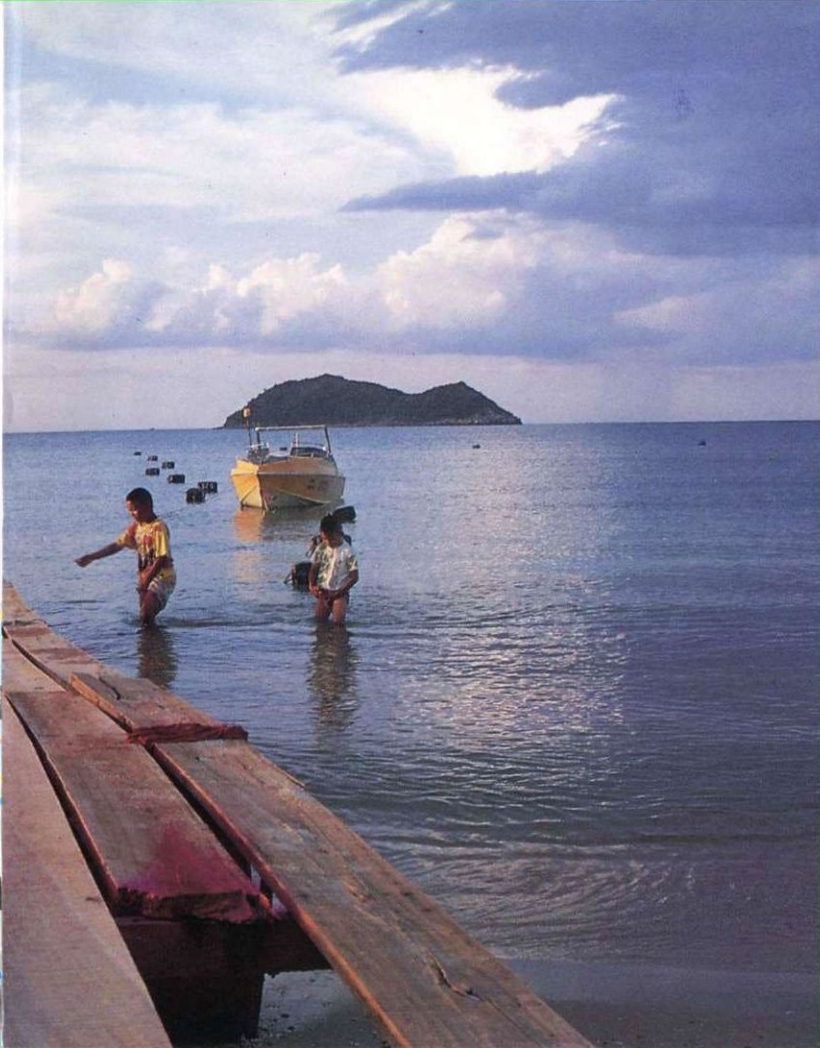


Cat and Rat Island

These prominent marine landmarks facing Samila Beach and Laem Son Onn with rodent-like and feline shapes have been the symbol of Songkhla since ancient times. These islets' coastal waters are favored by local anglers. Legend has it that a Chinese merchant who frequently navigated his junk with a full load of goods arrived in Songkhla for trading with local people. On his return trip, his junk would be filled with the local merchandise which was sold to his customers in China. On one occasion, while he was purchasing goods in the town of Songkhla, he accidentally caught sight of a cute cat and a dog, begged to buy them from the owner, and brought them on board his junk. Life on board the junk was naturally dull enough for the animals. Upon a return trip to Songkhla, the cat and the dog decided to find a way to escape back to Songkhla. The animals were aware that the Chinese merchant possessed a magic crystal ball which enabled them to swim across the sea to the land. The cat then tricked a rat living in the junk into stealing the crystal ball from the merchant by promising the rat that it would be allowed to



go on land together. When the junk was nearing the shore of Songkhla, the rat stole the ball, clutched it in its mouth and swam along with the cat and the dog toward the shore. While swimming, the rat which was ahead of the other animals realized the value of the ball and knew too well that upon reaching the shore it would be taken away by the mightier cat and dog. Therefore, the rat decided to keep the ball for itself, and so did the cat who



swam hard toward the rat. The rat was so frightened, trying to escape from the cat that it accidentally dropped the ball. Without the magic ball, both animals were eventually drowned, and the spot where they died later became Cat and Rat Island respectively. It was fortunate for the dog that it was able to swim ashore, but it too finally died of exhaustion. The beach where the dog died became Khao Tang Kuan, a hill fronting Samila Beach. The magic ball disintegrated into fine sand forming Haad Sai Kaeow (The Beach of Crystal Sand) which lies north off Laem Son Onn.

cat and rat island

S R A B U A



Sra Bua (Lotus Pond)

A small pond is divided into to parts, in the middle of each stands a pavilion on stilts. The pond contains various species of fish and other marine life. Around the pond is a miniature garden and a raised platform used as a stage for performances during festivals.

SONGKHLA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Located on Wichianchom Road, the museum, a former residence of Phraya Soonthornrak (Nate Na Songkhla), was built in 1878. In 1894, Phra Wichit Worasart (Chao Phraya Yommarat) designated it as a residence for provincial inspectors of Songkhla and Nakhon Si Thammarat, and from 1896 it was used as a city hall of Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat. At present, the Museum houses art objects and archeological artifacts from the pre-historic period of Baan Chiang and the Stone Age and the Neolithic period of Kanchanaburi as well as the artifacts from the ancient Srivijaya Kingdom. It is open for visitors from 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday to Friday. It is closed on Monday, Tuesday and official holidays. Across from the Museum lies the Old City Wall of Songkhla.



Located on Chana Road across the street from the national museum, it features a Thai style house built as a replica of the childhood house of Songkhla's well-known son, the Privy Councillor, Senior Statesman and former prime minister, H.E.Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda, whose father was a prison warden at that time. Cannon Fortress at Laem SaiThe fortress, now lying behind the premise of Songkhla Police Station, was built in the reign of King Rama III at the same time Songkhla was moved to the present site.

PHATHAMMARONG M U S E U M



CITY PILLAR SHRINE

Called “Sarn Chao Lak Muang Songkhla” and located on Nang Ngarm Road, the shrine was revered and worshipped by people in Songkhla and from neighboring provinces. Built to commemorate the founding of the city, the Chinese architectural styled shrine has influenced other buildings in the town. Particularly prominent are the

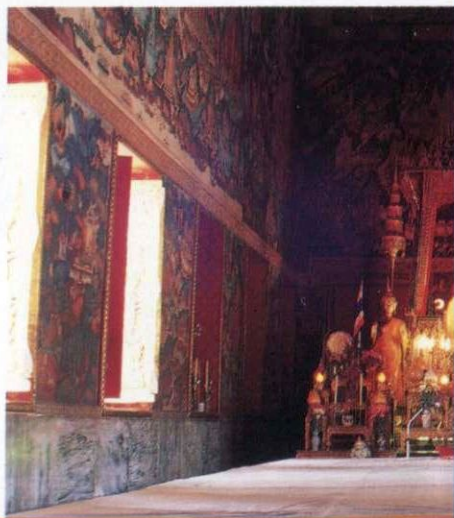


Sino-Portuguese styled houses on Nakhon Nai and Nakhon Nork Road. Unfortunately, some of these historic buildings have been left unrenovated and have deteriorated.



WAT MATCHIMAWAT (WAT KLAANG)

Built 400 years ago as a royal temple, this monastery is located on Saiburi Road. It was formerly known as “Wat Yai Sri Chan” after a rich merchant in Songkhla who patronized the construction of the temple. Because of its location between two new temples — Wat Liab to the north and Wat Pho to the south, the temple was called “Wat Klaang” (central temple) by local residents and was later officially named “Wat Matchimawat” by Chao Phraya Nongther Krom Muen Wachirayanwaroros on his visit to Songkhla in 1888. The interior of the temple displays murals depicting the history of Songkhla and Buddhist philosophy. In addition, the “Phattharasin” museum in the temple houses interesting ancient art objects collected from Amphoe Muang Songkhla, Sathing Phra, Ranode, and elsewhere.

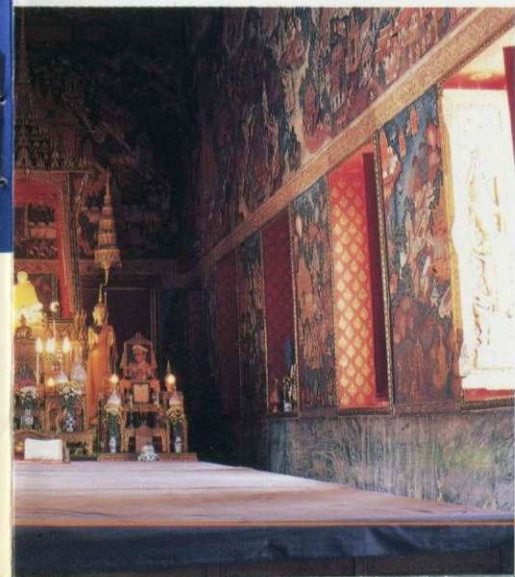


KHAO NOI PALACE

This mansion is located to the south of Khao Noi hillock on Sadao Road. It was built as a residence of Prince Chao Fah Yukhon Khamphorn (Krom Luang Lopburi Ramase) when he was Phra Samut Thesaphibaan of Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat, and later Somdet Upparat of Monthon Pak Tai (Southern Territory). The present King and Queen used to stay at this mansion on an earlier trip to the South in 1959. At the present the mansion is used as the residence of Governor of Songkhla.

CHEDI PHRABAROMMATHAT Wat Chai Mongkhol

(A pagoda containing Buddha bone relics) This revered pagoda is located in Wat Chai Mongkhol on the corner of Petch Mongkhol and Chai Mongkhol Road. In 1892 a Buddhist monk named Na Issaro who taught Pali at the temple visited a town in Sri Lanka where relics of Buddha's bone were kept. The monk became acquainted with a rich Sri Lankan merchant who had many pieces of Buddha's relics in his possession and agreed to donate some to the monk. Upon his return to Songkhla, the monk constructed a pagoda which contained the holy Buddha's relics where devotees came to worship regularly.





K A O S E N G

Kao Seng is a small fishing village situated some 3 kilometers south of Samila Beach. Near the village is the National Institute of Coastal Marine Aquaculture and a Buddhist monk sanctuary. Legend tells that the ruler of Nakhon Si Thammarat wanted to build a pagoda with Buddha's relics in his city and he then requested for other devotees to make contributions for this religious undertaking. Nai Raeng, a ruler of a city under the jurisdiction of Nakhon Si Thammarat, yearned to join in this great feat. He then set off on a sea journey for Nakhon Si Thammarat along with his subjects and treasures. On the way his boat was caught in a violent storm and had to come ashore for repair. However, during his stopover, he was informed that the construction of the Great Pagoda in Nakhon Si Thammarat had already

been completed and he then missed his chance of making great merit. Disappointed, Nai Raeng held his breath to commit suicide. Before his death, he ordered his servant, who then complied, to decapitate him and placed his head on a large rock near the shore and hid his treasure worth 900,000 Baht under the rock. Kao Seng, the present name of the village, is a corruption of the name derived from the Thai word "Kao Saen", referring to the nine hundred thousand Baht treasure and the rock is called Hua (the head of) Nai Raeng. Many people still believe that Nai Raeng's soul is still keeping watchful eyes over his treasure at the site.

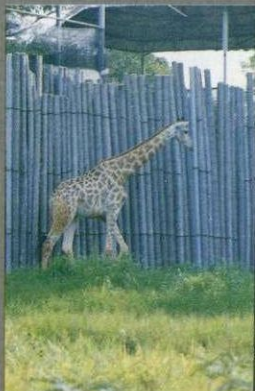
HOME OF FAITH (BAAN SATTHA)

This house was built in 1991 by residents of Songkhla for its famous son, former Prime Minister H.E. Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda, senior statesman and a Privy Councillor. The house was later returned to Songkhla people in 1996 and a public library was built next to the house to commemorate the King's 50th Anniversary of His Ascension to the Throne. Situated on the hill, the house, which is open to the public, serves as a vantage point for enjoying the scenery of Songkhla, overlooking Tinsulanonda Bridge, the longest in the country. Surrounding the house are decorating plants and trees which provide cool shade for visitors.



SONGKHLA ZOO

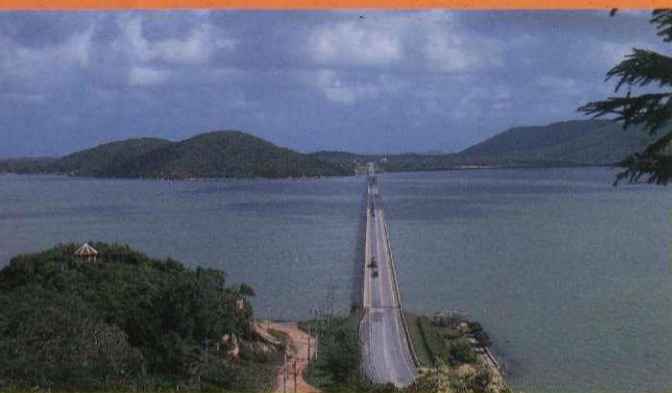
Located on a 911 Rai plot at No. 189 Songkhla - Chana Road, Tambon Khao Roop Chang, Amphoe Muang, Songkhla, the open zoo houses a variety of animal species, domestic and foreign, ranging from camels, birds, red bulls, tigers, crocodiles, etc. The zoo serves not only as a place for viewing various species of wild animals, but also as an ideal bird's eye view spot for admiring the scenic beauty of Songkhla. Food is available for visitors. For further information, please contact Tel (074)325037-8.



TWIN PAGODAS

Black Pagoda is located on the top of Kha Daeng Hill in Amphoe Singha Nakhon. It was built by Chao Muang Phra Khlang (Dis Bunnag) or Somdet Phraya Ongyai (Somdet Phraya Borom Maha Prayoorawong on occasion of a victory over the rebellion of Kedah in 1830.

SONGKHLA LAKE



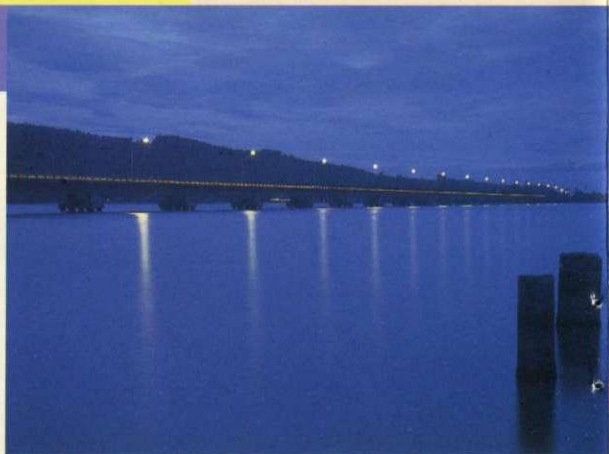
Songkhla Lake is the largest lake in Thailand covering extensive areas in Songkhla and Phatthalung province, the later some 80 kilometers from the estuary to the north. The widest width of the lake ranges between 20 to 25 kilometers. It is a fresh water lake except in the area close the sea where the water is brackish. Numerous species of water plants and marine life are found in abundance in the lake.

General Prem Tinsulanonda Park

The public park is located on the shore near the head of the first section of Tinsulanonda Bridges (from Baan Nam Krachai to Ko Yo). This lakeside garden is filled with flowering and ornamental plants and provides shady and cool area for picnic. It also features a children's playground.

TINSULANONDA BRIDGES

The bridge is part of Highway 4146, linking Highway 407 (Hat Yai - Songkhla) and Highway 4083 (Songkhla-Ranode). It starts from the mainland side at Baan Nam Krachai, passing through Ko Yo island, and is connected to Khao Khiao on the other side of the mainland. The bridge facilitates faster transportation across the lake without having to use the busy ferry services in the town of Songkhla. Construction began on March 26, 1984 and completed on September 25, 1986, and the opening ceremony was presided over by the Crown Prince. The bridge contains two sections. The first section links Amphoe Muang Songkhla at Baan Nam Krachai with the southern shore



of Ko Yo island, 940 meters in length, excluding a tied beam of 100 meters at each end. The second section links the northern shore of Ko Yo island with Baan Khao Khiao on the mainland with a length of 1,700 meters, excluding a 225 meter tied beam on Ko Yo side and a 100 meter tied beam on Khao Khiao shore.

KO YO ISLAND

Ko Yo is one of many islands in Songkhla Lake. Most islanders of KoYo are engaged in fruit orchard farming and fishing. It can be accessed through Tinsulanonda Bridges and has winding paved roads around the island. Notable tourist attractions on the island are nowadays compacted as the "cultural route" with responsibility of Subdistrict Administration Organization Office of Ko Yo. The route includes tourist attractions, traditional lives and culture of the islanders, with the famous Institute for Southern Thai Studies that won Thailand Tourism Awards 2000, Best Tourist Attraction, Cultural. For more information of the route please contact Subdistrict Administration Organization Office at Tel: (074) 450443.

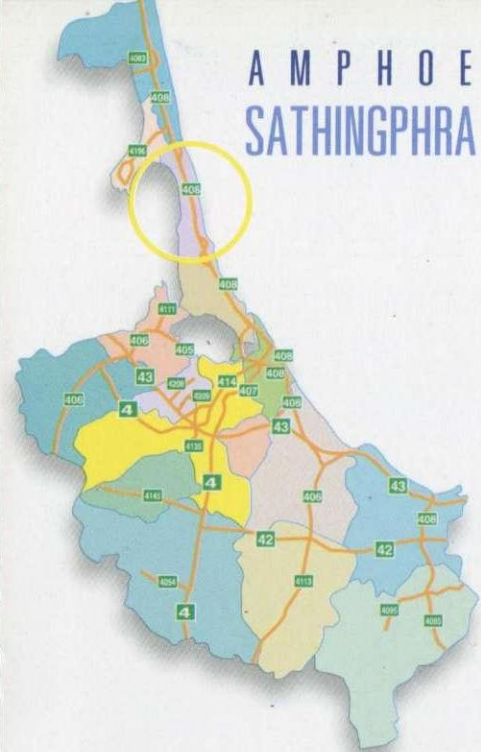


The Institute for Southern Thai Studies



The institute is located on Highway 4146 in Moo 1, Tambon Ko Yo, Amphoe Muang Songkhla, on the northeastern side of the island near the upper section of Tinsulanonda Bridge. Built on a site of approximately 10 acres in 1978, the institute serves as the center for studies and research on Southern Thai cultures. The complex of the institute includes the exhibition buildings, some at the foot of the hill while others are on the hill-top. Each building houses a special collection of culturally valuable items, art objects and artifacts discovered in the South. Exhibitions of the Southern people's way of life and customs from the early period to modern times are also shown. A special library caters for individuals interested in Southern Thai history and culture. The outdoor compound is decorated with miniature plant gardens and Thai styled pavilions. Souvenirs can be obtained from the gift shop in the compound. From the hilltop one can see a panoramic view of Ko Yo as well as Songkhla Lake. Accommodations are also provided. For information, please contact Tel: (074)331184 - 9.

AMPHOE SATHINGPHRA



Khu Khut Waterfowls Park

The park is located 3 kilometers off Highway 4083 at Moo 4, Tambon Khookhood, Amphoe Sathing Phra, 55 kilometers from Songkhla. The park, with an area of 91,166 acres (364 square kilometers) was declared a wildlife conservation park on April 19, 1976. It is one of Songkhla Lake's waterfowls sanctuaries worth visiting and ideal for bird watching. According to a survey conducted by the Forestry Department, there are 44 families, 137 genuses, and 219 species of birds at the sanctuary. Boats can be hired for sight-seeing at a rate of 200 Baht per an approximated trip of 1 hour. The park is best visited during December to March when species of birds, both migratory and resident are in abundance. For further information, please call (074) 397042.



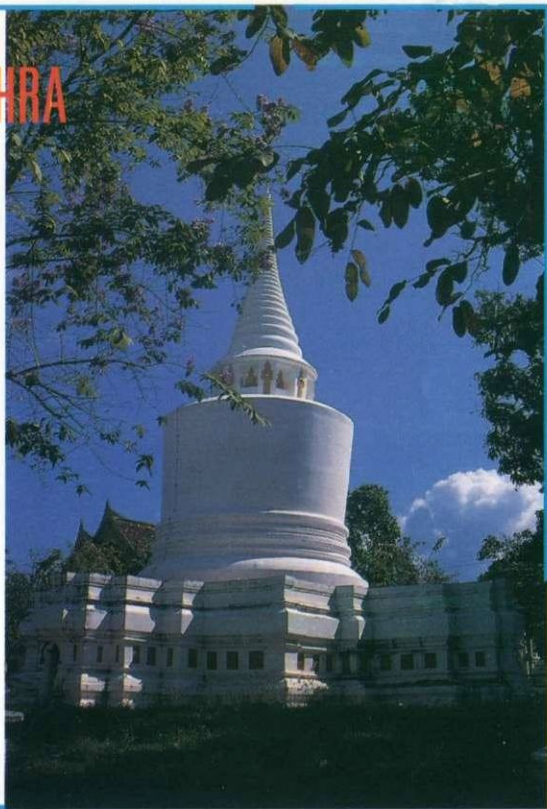
MAHARAT BEACH

The beach is located 500 meters from the District Office. The three kilometer long

beach with crystal sand is serene and an enjoyable location for swimming. It is lined with pine trees, providing cool shade for relaxation.

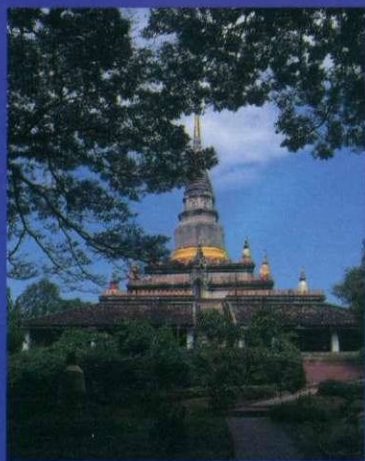
WAT CHATHING PHRA

The temple is located 200 meters from the District Office at Moo 4, Tambon Chathing Phra, Amphoe Sathing Phra. Formerly called “Wat Sathing Phra”, the temple, built in 1009 A.D., shelters ancient structures of the Srivijaya Period such as the pagoda containing Buddha’s relics, a chapel housing the reclining Buddha statue, and a bell hall.



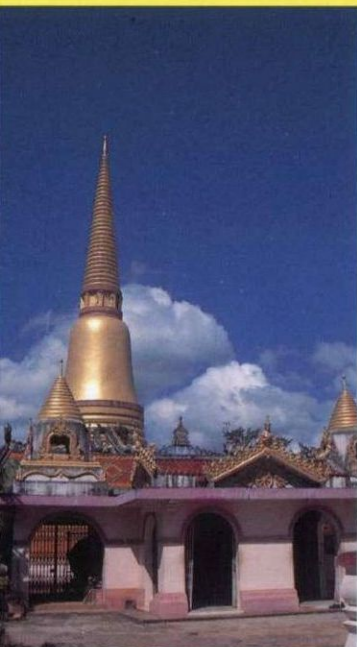
WAT PHAKHO

(Wat Rachpraditsatharn)



Built around 43 B.C., this renowned temple is located on the hill of Phatthasing at Moo 4, Tambon Chumphon, Amphoe Sathing Phra. The revered monk named Somdet Phakho, who commands much respect among local residents, used to reside at this temple. Many ancient objects and artifacts housed in the temple included a reclining Buddha statue, Buddha’s footprint, a magical crystal ball belonging to Somdet Chao Phakho, a replica of Somdet Chao Phakhoa in a posture of meditation, and statue of Somdet Chao Phakho in a pilgrimage posture. The temple can be reached by taking Highway 407, across Tinsulanonda Bridges, entering Highway 4083 (Songkhla-Ranode), and then taking a left turn at Km. 110. It is about 48 kilometers from Songkhla.

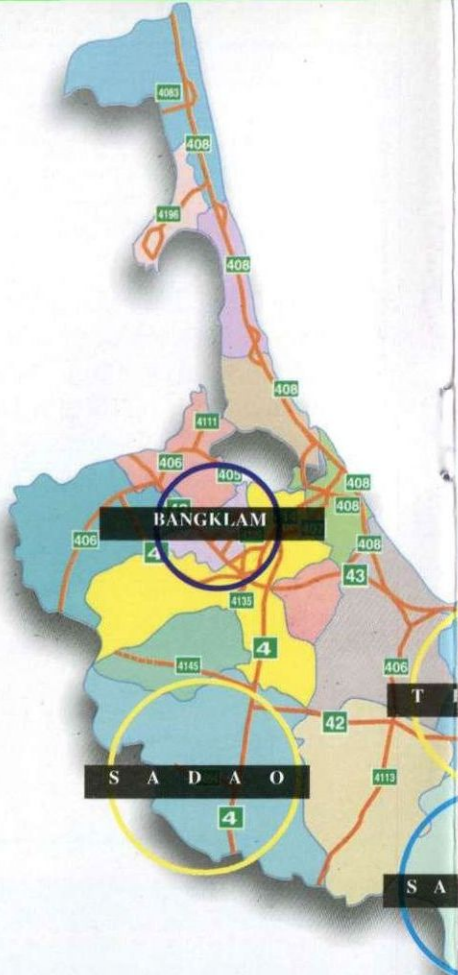
AMPHOE BANGKLAM



W A T Khongkha Liab

The temple, belonging to the Mahayana Buddhist sect, is located at Baan Nongkhuan, Moo 5, Tambon Tha Chang, Amphoe Bangklam on an approximately 4 acre plot. This temple is considered a holy place

revered by both Buddhist Thais and Buddhists from other countries, many of whom travel to pray at this place.



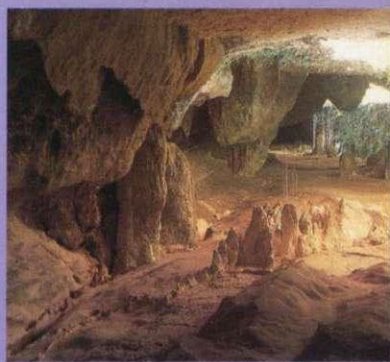
A M P H O E T H E P A

Sakom Beach and Thepa Beach

The beach is about 53 kilometers from Songkhla on Highway No.4 to Pattani. It is about 20 kilometers from Amphoe Chana and one kilometer off the main highway. Further on along the highway for another some 20 kilometers are beaches called Soi Sawan beach and Thepa beach respectively. These are ideal locations for camping and picnic. A small island across from the beach is Koh Khaam where is good for fishing and snorkeling.

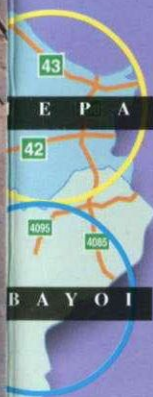
Wat Tham Talord

The temple is located 25 kilometers from the District Office at Moo 6, Tambon Khao Daeng, Amphoe Sabayoi. The cave serves as a natural tunnel linking one side of hill with the other. Inside the cave are an ancient cement Buddha statue, approximately 100 reclining Buddha statues of varied sizes, and a statute of a 6 foot tall giant guarding the entrance of the cave. The cave provides cool shade and a relaxing atmosphere.



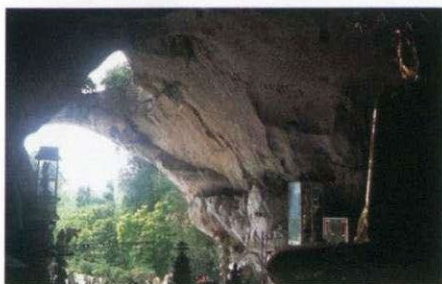
Roo Noksak Cave

The cave is located 14 kilometers from the District Office at Moo 4, Tambon Khooha. A crystal clear stream flows along the cave. Stalagmites and stalactites of various shapes and forms are most fascinating for visitors. Part of the 300 meters long cave is dark while the other is bright. Trekking through the cave is quite adventurous since trekkers have to climb some steep cliffs in order to complete the exciting journey.



Amphoe Sadao

Sadao is south of Songkhla bordering the state of Kedah in Malaysia. It is about 60 kilometers from Hat Yai.



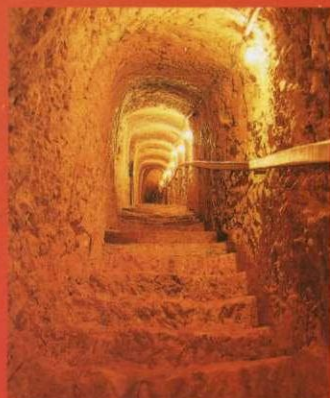
Wat Tham Khao Roop Chang

This temple is located in Tambon Padang Besar. It utilizes a cave in the premise as place for performing religious practices. Exotic stalagmites and stalactites are eminent in the cave. The interior of the cave is partitioned into many chambers. The temple premise is cool and peaceful. It is about 13 kilometers from Padang Besar market.

AMPHOE NATHAWEE

KHAO NAMKHANG National Park

The area in the park is covered with virgin forests where there are two waterfalls called Tone Dard Fah and Tone Lard Fah. The park can be accessed by two routes: 26 kilometers from Sadao and 31 kilometers from Nathawee on Nathawee - Baan Prakob Road.



Khao Namkhang Historical Tunnel:

This man-made tunnel, located at Moo 1, Tambon Khlong Kwang, Amphoe Nathawee, was once a base of members of the outlawed Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) who surrendered en masse to the Thai authorities on March 13, 1987. Renamed as the "Friendship Village", the premise was the site of the battles for 40 years. It is the largest man-dug tunnel in the country and took two years to complete. The three level tunnel with 1000 meters winding paths and multiple entrances and exits can accommodate 200 people. The tunnel can be reached by paved roads.



AMPHOE CHANA

Wat Khuat (Bottled Temple)

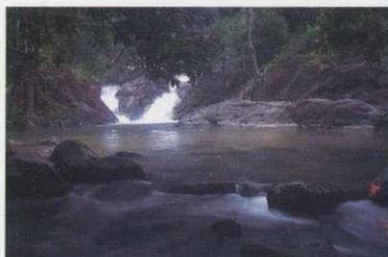
Wat Khuat is situated at Moo 5 Ban Klong Harn, Tambon Khae, Amphoe Chana, governed by the abbot, Phra khru Soondhorn Dhammasiri. The 6-kilometer-road off Highway 406 (Chana-Nathawee) at KM 43 in front of Ban Khae School takes to the bottled temple. The 20-Raj plot donated by villagers houses buildings that made of recycled-glass bottles. The construction of the temple employed glass-bottles in various sizes colors, and shapes that will be attached with cement in different patterns and decorated with shells to build every building such as the chedi, ubosoth, sermon hall monk's residences walls, main gate, fences, and even toilets.



AMPHOE RATTAPHUM

Boriphat Waterfall

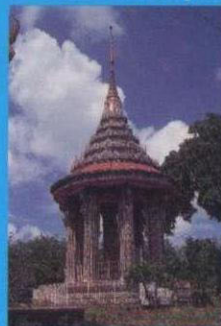
This waterfall is located in Amphoe Rattaphum on Highway 406 (Hat Yai-Satun) at Km. 34-35. A one kilometer road leads to the beautiful waterfall.



Amphoe Krasaesin is north of Sathing Phra. By taking Sathing Phra - Ranode Road, turning left 13 kilometer beyond Sathing Phra and going a further 13 kilometers, visitors can reach Krasaesin which has many tourist attractions.

Wat Aek Cherngsae

Formerly known as Wat Aek, the temple is located at Tambon Cherngsae, Amphoe Krasaesin. It houses a sacred Buddha statue made of coral reef. The present figure, a size of 70 cm. at the lap and 120 cm. high is covered with cement. For further information, please contact the temple at (074)399075.

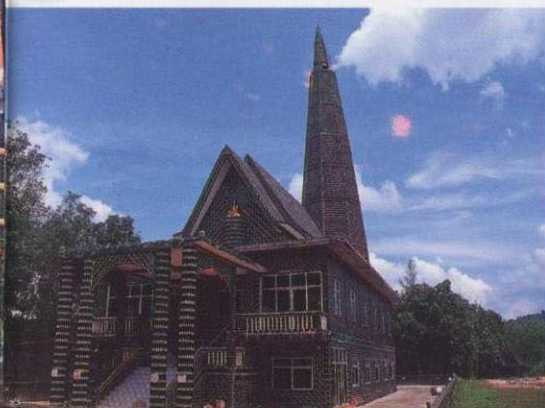


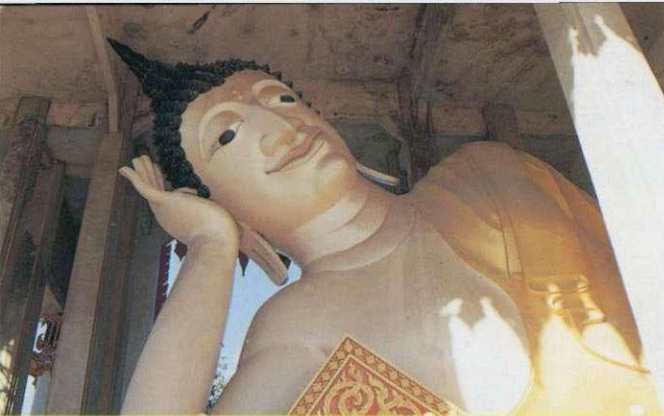
Laem Khwai Rab Wildlife Protection Unit

The reserve covers the area of Tambon Koh Yai, Amphoe Krasae Sin, and the unit office is located on the shore of Songkhla Lake. It can be reached by boat from Khookhood or by road passing Krasaesin District Office. From the premise visitors can see hundreds of birds, particularly in the morning and at dusk.

Holy Well

It is located at Moo 4, Tambon Koh Yai, 7 kilometers from the District Office. The legend says that a Buddhist monk named Phra Sin Narai and a layman called Khoun Vichai Bhrama Sarn traveled from India to the Kingdom of Ayuddhya and on their way they stopped over and dug a well here, claimed to be sacred. The water in the well runs abundantly all year long.





Wat Hat Yai Nai

The temple is located on Phetchkasem Road near U-Taphao Bridge. It houses a reclining Buddha statue called “Phra Bhuddha Hattha Mongkhon” with the size of 35 meters long, 15 meters high, and 10 meters wide. The temple is visited by both local residents and foreign devotees.

AMPHOE HAT YAI

Hat Yai City Municipality Park

The park is located 6 kilometers from Hat yai city center on Kachanavanit Road (Hat Yai - Songkhla). It is a recreational area for Hat Yai residents as well as other visitors. The park complex is decorated with beautiful flowering and ornamental plants. A pavilion was built jutting into a small man-made lake. A small size zoo and a bird park provide visitors with a glimpse of wild animals and various species of birds. At the foot of the hill near the bird’s park is a statue of King Rama V (King Chulalongkorn). On the hilltop is a shrine of the Hindu god Brahma. On the north side of the hilltop overlooking the scout camp is located a shrine of the Chinese goddess of mercy and compassion, Kuan Yin, which made of white-jadeite stones with the height of 9.9 meters.



Tone Nga Chang Waterfall

The waterfall is located in a wildlife reserve area 26 kilometers from Hatyai. It can be reached by taking the Hat Yai - Rattaphum Road, turning left at the 13 kilometer milestone and going further for another 13 kilometers. Of all the seven cascades, the third one is the most fascinating, with the water falling into two large streams resembling an elephant’s tusks (Tone Nga Chang means “waterfall like an elephant’s tusks” in the local dialect). The water flows all year long. The area is also ideal for trekking and enjoying unspoiled nature.

sports and other activities



Bull Fighting

Bull fighting has long been a popular sport among the people in the South. Unlike bull fighting in Spain that a matador fights with a bull, the bull fighting of the Southern Thailand features a bull fights another bull. A pair of fighting bulls are led into the arena for each bout where spectators can cheer and bet on the winner. During the fight, specially trained bulls lock horns until one decides to call it quits and runs away. Each bout normally takes between 15 to 30 minutes. Normally only one contest a month is held in each arena; however, visitors can attend the fight each weekend at various arenas. No contest is allowed on a Buddhist Sabbath day. The stake of the bet for certain matches may go as high as a hundred thousand Baht. During Songkran festival in Hatyai, matches are usually held.

Dove Singing Contest

Cooing doves are popular among Southerners, particularly residents of the five Southern provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, Satun, and Songkhla. The most sought after birds are from breeding farms in Chana, some 40 kilometers from Hat Yai on Highway 408, where dove lovers from neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore flock the district to purchase the birds. Dove cooing competitions are held annually between January and July. Criteria used in judging the quality of dove's sound is based on pitch, melody, volume, and continuity in its singing. Winning birds are valued for as much as a million Baht.

Shooting Ranges

Songkhla's two shooting ranges are open to the public daily. *Roochirawong Shooting Range* is opposite Hat Yai Police Station. Open daily, the range offers pistols and rifles for rent, along with training coaches. Details may be obtained by contacting (074)243311. *Songkhla Navy Base Shooting Range* is located in the premise of Songkhla Navy Base on Chalathat Road. Open daily, the range also offers pistols and rifles for rent. Food is also served at its seaside restaurant. Contact (074) 311451-5 for further details.

Thai Boxing

A Thai martial art unique to Thailand, has been a popular national sport. Boxing competition is organized throughout the country. Two boxing stadiums are open to visitors: Songkhla Navy Base Boxing Stadium (074-311451-5, Ext. 2049) and Hat Yai Boxing Stadium (074-232682), both stadium organize fights on occasion. Tickets are available at the gate.

sports and other activities

Golf : Songkhla offers 5 golf courses as follows :

Hat Yai Resort & Golf Club (18 hole, 7,010 yards, 480 acres) is located at Ban Wangpa, Tambon Thoongsao, Amphoe Rattaphum (near Tone Nga Chang Waterfall); Tel: (074) 434770-9 Fax: 434778.

Hat Yai Country Club (9 holes, 52 acres) is located at Tambon Banphru, Amphoe Hat Yai. Contact the sale office at (074) 2332582, 343121.

Khor Hong Golf Course (9 holes, 20 acres) is located in Senanarong Military Camp of the Fourth Region Army Tel: (074) 211500-3, Ext. 549.

Thong Yai Golf Course (9 holes, 32 acres) is located next to Samila Beach in Songkhla. Contact the sales office at (074) 323761.

Southern Hill Golf & Country Club (18 holes, 192 acres) is located in Ban Rai, on Hatyai-Sadao road. For reservation and information please contact (074) 343560-3.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Ko Yo Hand-Woven Fabric is the island's famous cottage industry. The long lasting fine cloth with varied designs made by the locals can be tailored into men's or ladies' apparels. The fabric is sold in shops selling local products and souvenir shops in Hat Yai and Songkhla, and at the market in Ko Yo.

Shrimp or Fish Rice Crisps produced in Songkhla are well-known for their taste and reasonable price. They are available at shops selling local products.

Cashew Nuts are a common snack or used in cooking in many Thai dishes. They are sold in the baked or uncooked form and can be bought from vendors in Hat Yai or shop selling local products.

Shadow Puppet is a folk entertainment of the South and is popular among the people in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung, Trang, and Songkhla. The puppets are crafted from cow hide, painted, and when used in shadow plays, are placed against the screen where strong back light outlines the shadow of the puppets on the screen. The movement, the dialogues and the events in the show are controlled by the puppet master. Crafted shadow puppets are sold for souvenirs or decoration.

Agricultural Fair

The fair is organized annually around August-September by the Faculty of Natural Resources, Prince of Songkhla University with the aim of promoting Thailand's agriculture of southern Thailand. The fair includes activities concerning agriculture and agricultural industry such as agricultural products sale, exhibitions, seminars, agricultural contests, demonstrations, etc.

Culture Relations Fair

The annual fair organized by Rajabhat Institute Songkhla, is held around August to promote culture by performing Thai cultural performances from various regions of Thailand. Traditionally, invited performers from neighboring countries, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc., will perform their cultural shows as the matter of cultural exchange.

Major Festivals and Events

Songkran is celebrated on April 13 each year. The traditional festival is held country-wide. In Songkhla, the festival starts with the merit making ceremony by participants respectfully pouring water on their venerable elders and ending up with throwing water at each other. In Hat Yai, the festival is held on Niphat Unit 1, 2, or 3 Road from morning until afternoon and the event is enjoyed not only by local residents but also by Malaysian and Singaporean tourists who arrive in Hat Yai in large number to celebrate this fun filled event.

Loy Krathong is a Thai traditional event dating from the Sukhothai period. It is held throughout the country on the 15th night of the waxing moon of the 12th lunar month (around the middle of November). The festival is held to honor the goddess of the river and to make atonement for offenses made during the year. A float is made from banana leaf or other buoyant material. Candles and incense sticks, and even pieces of nail and coins are placed in the "Krathong" to float away one's misfortunes. The fun-filled night also features fireworks, float design competition, and the Miss Noppamas beauty contest.

Lark Phra and Tak Bart Devo

The festival is celebrated by residents of Songkhla on the first day of the waxing moon in the 11th lunar month (around October) in Songkhla town. The festival starts one day early with the robing of the

pagoda on the top of Khao Tang Kuan. Early in the morning of the festival day, hundreds of monks gather on the hill and proceed down the stairs to receive offerings from the faithful. Late morning is the scene of processions of artistically decorated vehicles with Buddha statutes from temples in and around Songkhla. The vehicles are paraded around the town and the faithful make merits by joining the procession. Finally the decorated vehicles gather at Sra Bua (the Lotus Pond) for competition.

Thamboon Duen Sip Festival

This tenth lunar month festival is performed by the Buddhists of the South, the Merit Making on the Tenth Lunar Month festival originated from the belief that during the waning moon of the month, souls of the deceased ancestors are allowed a period of freedom to visit their living relatives. It is the duty of the living to prepare food and bring it to the temple to make merit for them. In Amphoe Sathing Phra, tall figurines representing venerable elders respected by the villagers parade along together in the procession.



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|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. AMARIN HOTEL | 12. HATYAI INTER HOTEL | 23. ORIENTTAL HOTEL | 34. YONG DEE HOTEL |
| 2. AMBASSADOR HOTEL | 13. CITY PARK HOTEL | 24. PALM INN HOTEL | 35. VL. HOTEL |
| 3. ASIAN HOTEL | 14. TANAPHAT HOTEL | 25. PHIMARIN HOTEL | 36. SAKURA GRAND VIEW |
| 4. BP GRAND HOTEL | 15. INDRRA HOTEL | 26. SAKURA HOTEL | 37. RADO HOTEL |
| 5. GRAND PLAZA HOTEL | 16. KOSIT HOTEL | 27. MAE NAM HOTEL | 38. SILOM HOTEL |
| 6. DAIICHI HOTEL | 17. LAEM THONG HOTEL | 28. SIAM CITY HOTEL | 39. LANNA INN HOTEL |
| 7. EMPEROR HOTEL | 18. LEE GARDEN HOTEL | 29. S.C. HERITAGE HOTEL | 40. HATYAI MERRIDIAN |
| 8. FLORID HOTEL | 19. L.K. HOTEL HADDYAI | 30. SINGAPORE HOTEL | 41. HATYAI SK HOTEL |
| 9. GENTING HOTEL | 20. MONTIEN HOTEL | 31. THE RIVER INN HOTEL | 42. HATYAI MERLIN |
| 10. DAIMON PLAZA HOTEL | 21. MY HOUSE HOTEL | 32. THE ROYAL HOTEL | 43. HATYAI PALACE |
| 11. GREEN VIEW HOTEL | 22. NGE E FAH HOTEL | 33. THAI HOTEL | |



HOSPITAL



GOVERNMENT OFFICE



BANK



SHOPPING





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